

her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and all of Palm Beach County because she stepped up to history and honored it with an unyielding commitment to service with strong and positive results.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to honor Maude Ford Lee on her 80th birthday. She is not only an outstanding role model for our community and this nation, but somebody that I am extremely proud to call a good friend. I wish her many more years of success and happiness.

STRONG OPPOSITION TO WALBERG BILL

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Walberg bill. We must allow the Department of Labor to implement and enforce the Overtime Rule, giving employees a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

The American people have waited long enough. In 1975, approximately 62 percent of salaried workers were covered by overtime protections—but according to the White House, that is just 7 percent today.

This bill would deny the 4.2 million American workers affected by this rule \$600 million dollars. For working families making under the overtime rule's threshold, six months of lost overtime pay means less food on the table, less gas in the car, less money in the college fund.

We cannot play politics with the incomes of hardworking Americans. The biggest issue facing our country today is that families are not making enough to live on.

The overtime rule is a step to lessen the burden on hardworking but struggling families—it is commonsense and overdue.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, workers who will benefit the most from the new rule include women, African Americans, Latinos, and workers under 35.

The Department of Labor spent more than a year meeting with 200 stakeholders to collect input for the new rule—and collected more than 270,000 public comments, which they took seriously to make significant changes to the rule, making it work for businesses and working families.

I would also add that in 2004, the last time we raised the overtime rule threshold, the Bush Administration used a 120-day implementation period. We are providing even more time, for a rule that is much less complex.

This delay is unnecessary and harmful—and we cannot let it pass. This proposal throws up another unnecessary and shameful hurdle in the way of the overtime rule. We have an obligation to do right by our working families.

IN HONOR OF THOMAS P. TRAYLOR'S THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS WITH BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER AND HIS COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING QUALITY HEALTHCARE TO RESIDENTS OF BOSTON AND MASSACHUSETTS

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Thomas P. Traylor, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the healthcare community in the City of Boston and across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to commend him for thirty-eight years of service to Boston Medical Center.

Throughout Tom Traylor's career, in his roles as Vice President at Boston Medical Center, Vice President of Boston Medical Center's HealthNet Plan, Commissioner of Boston's Department of Health and Hospitals, and Chief Financial Officer of Boston's Department of Health and Hospitals, he was the ever-present, creative force driving health coverage and access for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, dedicating 38 years of service to this mission.

During that time, Tom inspired Massachusetts to participate in its critical first Medicaid 1115 Waiver to expand health coverage to the neediest populations in the Commonwealth. He was engaged in the design of each of the six succeeding waivers, directly impacting Massachusetts Medicaid for over twenty years. Tom was instrumental in creating funding models and mechanisms to support coverage expansion and the ability of Boston Medical Center and other safety net hospitals to continue to provide quality care to low income populations. And Tom's deep commitment to provide healthcare and coverage to our most vulnerable residents inspired him to create the BMC HealthNet plan, now one of the highest rated Medicaid plans in the country serving people in Massachusetts and in New Hampshire.

Tom's successful collaboration with the multiple state administrations, Massachusetts legislature, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and the Congressional delegation helped bring billions of dollars in funding to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for access and coverage for low income populations. For all of his efforts, Tom was recognized nationally as a leader in his field and served as Chair of the National Association of Public Hospitals, and its successor organization America's Essential Hospitals.

Tom's deep understanding of the potential of the Medicaid Waiver, as well as the politics and policy surrounding it, were the keys to success that enabled Boston Medical Center, and other safety net hospitals in Massachusetts, to grow and expand, leveraging federal support for access and coverage for residents of Boston and around the Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to take the floor of the House today to thank Tom Traylor for his remarkable commitment to Boston Medical Center and the people of Boston and Massachusetts. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Thomas P. Traylor's efforts and dedicated service to others.

CONGRATULATING GEIST ELEMENTARY, A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding school in my district that is being honored as a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School. It is a pleasure to congratulate Geist Elementary in Fishers, Indiana in celebration of this special occasion.

The National Blue Ribbon designation, given by the United States Department of Education, is awarded to both public and private schools across our great nation. Started by President Reagan and given annually since 1982, the award celebrates great American schools that achieve very high learning standards or are making significant improvements in the academic achievements of their students. In my district and across the country, the award recognizes the great educators, students, and parents who have worked so hard to ensure Indiana's children reach their full potential and achieve academic success.

For all of these reasons and many more, I am so proud that Geist Elementary is receiving this prestigious designation. It is a wonderful acknowledgement of the school's commitment to providing young Hoosiers an exceptional education. While hundreds of schools nationwide were nominated, only 329 schools were designated as 2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools, making this recognition all the more impressive.

To be chosen for the Blue Ribbon designation, schools must rank in the top 15 percent of all schools on ISTEP assessments in both reading and mathematics. Teachers work to meet kids at their needs and find what students need to be successful. Geist Elementary provides students with a nurturing learning environment that allows them to build meaningful relationships and academic self-confidence that they can carry on throughout the rest of their lives. Students are encouraged to engage with their school and the real world, through the support of teachers and staff for many student generated projects. Through the dedicated efforts of teachers and hard work of their students, Geist Elementary has truly earned this recognition. Geist Elementary equips students with valuable relationships, support, and never-ending opportunities to learn.

As an advocate for education and youth, I also want to acknowledge how important it is to our nation's future to encourage and raise a new generation of Americans who have the skills and knowledge to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Students like those at Geist Elementary give me hope that we will accomplish this vital mission. Their outstanding work is an inspiration to students, educators, and parents across the nation. Once again, congratulations to Geist Elementary. I am very proud of you.